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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL
AND OTHER PROVINCIAL MARKETING POOLS

Vol. VII

CALGARY, ALBERTA, MARCH 25, 1938

No. 4

Budget Carries Without Division in Alberta Legislative Assembly

Staff Correspondence



Report of the Advisory Committee on Taxation



Official News
From the Alberta Wheat Pool

Report of the Advisory Committee on Taxation

The U.F.A. takes first step in history of Province to introduce science into affairs of Government. Systematic Investigation Replaces "Hit and Miss" Plan—Scope of Inquiry and Recommendations of Commission.

By J. F. WATSON

"The U.F.A." Staff Correspondent

Since the coming of the U.F.A. Government into power in 1921 vast strides have been taken in the dissemination of information among the masses of our population regarding the science of government. That government is a science was never taken seriously prior to that year. Any old thing, hit or miss, high or low, would do duty as the director of Provincial destinies, but, glory be, the floors are being swept clear of unnecessary rubbish, the walls papered, the cracks chinked, and hit by hit order restored.

Back of System

One of the greatest drawbacks to progress was found to be that no systematic plan of collecting revenues ever had been devised. The imposition of taxes should be based on some clearly defined idea, but instead of that, there was nothing but, to say the least, the hit and miss method of meeting a need by looking around to find some new source of taxation regardless of where it began or ended, or of whether it struck into the preserves of other units of society, thus depriving them of revenues badly needed. This was not merely a problem as between the Province and the cities and towns, but between the Province and the Dominion.

A chaotic state like this could not go on indefinitely without disastrous results. Already the howls of municipal units fill the air with weird appeal for relief, directed toward the Province. The Province, in turn, groans in its agony as it turns gaunt fingers toward the Dominion, hoping against hope long deferred for some faint recognition of its claims for a freer field of taxation or relief.

Gruesome Complete Survey

Still, one thing is most commendable. Instead of sitting down with folded hands, the Province, in order to have some definite guidance for future action, ordered the making of a complete survey of the whole field. To do this, the best brains obtainable were set to work, and now, after a couple of years intensive study the result of that work has been placed at the disposal of the Legislature and Government. The 75 pages of 10 point type do not convey any faint idea of the tremendous task involved, the midnight oil consumed in an effort to digest the voluminous evidence corralled from world wide sources, nor the segregation and classification of the material into plain and intelligible English.

The personnel selected by the Government included H. M. Tory, President of the University of Alberta who was Chairman of the Commission; A. A. Carpenter, Chairman of the Board of Public Utilities; E. Finckhock, Secretary of the Municipal Districts Association; A. T. Stephenson, City Commissioner, Red Deer; and A. H. Tovell, Manager of the Municipal Hall Insurance Board. It will thus be seen that practically every taxation unit had representation, under the chairmanship of an experienced investigator. To increase efficiency the services of Robert English, assistant de-

puty minister of municipalities, were placed at the disposal of the commission as secretary, and the auditor and deputy provincial treasurer placed at its beck and call when needed.

Gathering of Information

Twenty-five meetings, properly advertised, were held at different centres throughout the Province to hear representatives of bodies or individuals interested. In addition to this, information was collected from responsible sources throughout the Dominion, various States of the Union, and from certain British Dominions overseas. The latter was to determine (a.) The total taxation in proportion to population, including municipal and school districts; (b.) The expenditures borne by Provincial Governments in relation to that borne by the local authorities; (c.) The distribution of revenue as between the Provincial authority and the local authority; and (d.) The sources of revenue and the methods of securing it. Thus the Commission was placed in possession of the experience of older and more firmly established communities with respect to the questions submitted to it.

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference on which the inquiry was conducted, as defined by the Government, were these:

(A) The equalization of the burden of taxation.

(B) Improved methods of collecting revenues.

(C) Methods of collecting revenue from the natural resources of the Province, having regard to their possible transfer to the Province, paying particular attention to the taxation of mineral resources by Provincial and municipal authorities.

(D) The extent to which any tax may be reduced or modified, or one form of taxation substituted for another, having particular regard to the supplementary revenue tax and the wild lands tax.

(E) The division of responsibility for revenue and expenditure as between the Government and the municipalities, urban and rural, including the question of mothers' allowance and care of indigents.

(F) Adequacy of sinking fund and provision for the refund of Provincial and local funded debts.

(G) Systems of local governments obtaining in the Province of Alberta and elsewhere.

The meetings held throughout the Province were taken advantage of by representatives from urban and rural municipalities, hospital associations, land commissioners of the various big companies, the city of Edmonton, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, C.N.R., Calgary School Board, C.P.R., School Trustees Association, Boards of Trade, elevator owners and retail merchant associations.

Means Complete Change

The result of these representations led the Commission to submit that should the Government undertake to meet, in any considerable degree, the demands

made in the representations in the report, a complete change in the methods of financing the Province will be necessary. It would appear on a reasonable estimate that if all the requests were granted it would involve the finances of the Province to the extent of approximately three and three-quarter millions as indicated by the following statement:

Sum to Taxation by Abolition of—

Supplementary Revenue.....	\$1,400,000
Wild Lands.....	800,000
Amusement Tax to Cities.....	100,000
Unearned Investment Tax.....	80,000
Restaurant License.....	7,000
Total.....	\$2,387,000

Increasing Services of—

Mother's Allowance.....	\$ 204,000
Additional grants to hospitals (estimated).....	100,000
Additional assistance for elementary education (estimated).....	300,000
Additional assistance for high school education (estimated).....	300,000
Care of Mentally Defective Children.....	10,000
Road Grants to highways (estimated).....	300,000
Total.....	\$1,204,000

Sum to Municipalities—

Requests Division Liquor Profits (any 20 per cent).....	300,000
Revenue from Motor Vehicles (any 20 per cent).....	300,000
Total.....	\$ 600,000
Grand Total.....	\$3,291,000

"In addition," continues the report, "requests were made that the Government should assume all costs for T.B. indigent patients, should abolish the elevator tax and should provide free medical examination for all children under school age. There is no data by which we could even estimate the cost of some of these latter items.

What Would Be Necessary

"It is quite clear, therefore, that even though at present the burden of taxation may not be equitably distributed between the Province and the Municipalities, as claimed by some of those making representations, no small adjustment would meet the case. It would necessitate the organization of the municipalities on a larger basis, giving them much larger financial responsibilities with respect to certain services than they are now exercising.

"Theoretically, it does not much matter whether certain services are carried under government authority and financial support or under the authority and financial support of a local government unit, so long as the work in connection with the service is a necessary work and is properly carried out. In many cases it would make little or no difference to the taxpayer. If, however, larger responsibilities are to be assumed by local authorities, the question of the creation of efficient machinery must be considered."

After analysing the evidence from the far flung Dominions, the Provinces of Canada, and the States of the Union, the Commission makes certain definite recommendations. Before doing so it outlines very fully a study of the situation in Alberta in relation to the distribution

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THE ALBERTA BEE AND POULTRY POOL

Editor

G. DONALD KENNEDY

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CALGARY, ALBERTA, MARCH 8th, 1938

No. 8

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EDITORIAL

"STRANING AT A SHAW"

The present leader of the Liberal party, when invited to suggest cuts in public expenditure which he could recommend to the Legislature, proved less wise in his day and generation than his predecessors in that office.

We recall successive sessions, each showing close pairing of controllable expenditure, when leaders of the Liberal party who had attacked the budget were invited to suggest reductions. The leaders generally balked. Only the redoubtable R. C. Marshall could be persuaded to venture upon this perilous ground—with results which have been recorded in the columns of this paper.

Mr. Shaw is more rash than his predecessors. Last week he essayed the task which with deeper knowledge and wider experience of Provincial finance they had declined. We doubt whether other members of his own party in the Assembly today would endorse his chief suggestions.

If the Liberal leader had succeeded in suggesting a feasible way of reducing expenditure below its present limits, at a time when legitimate demands for necessary services are increasing, his success would quite properly have been greeted with approval in the editorial columns of Alberta dailies. In this matter, however, so far as we have seen, the dailies have been as wise as were the former leaders. In fact Mr. Shaw's line of attack has called forth criticism in unexpected quarters.

One of the suggested economies upon which the Liberal leader laid strongest emphasis was the abolition of the Publicity Department. This is what the *Calgary Alberta* has to say upon the subject:

The proposal put forward in the Legislature that the Publicity Department maintained by the Alberta Government should be abolished in order to save \$12,400 a year received the short shrift it deserved from the great majority of members. Apart from the excellent advertising for the Province achieved through the efforts of the Publicity Commissioner, to talk of a small sum of this kind in total estimates of over twelve millions looks like stooping at a gnat and swallowing a camel.

The second article in the series by U. F. A. members of the House of Commons, dealing with Federal affairs, will be published in our next issue. It will be contributed by Donald M. Kennedy, M.P. for Peace River. "U.F. W.A." will write on "A Woman's View of Parliament," and the issue will contain the usual pages devoted to Organization news.

* * *

An appreciation of Norman Priestley's poem, "A Farmer's Fever of Hope and Fear," which was published in *The U.F.A.* last fall, is contained in a recent letter from W. M. Davidson, former editor of the *Calgary Alberta*. Writing from Rome, Italy, where he has been spending a portion of the winter, Mr. Davidson expresses especial interest in Mr. Priestley's contribution, "which," he says, "is very virile, sturdy and full of atmosphere. It is one of the best things that has come out of Alberta. I always have thought that the great poem of Canada would be an epic of the wheat. This is one phase of it."

Mr. Davidson has devoted much of his time during a prolonged stay in Europe to a study of post-war conditions, and has generously consented to contribute a number of articles to our columns during the spring or summer, giving his impressions of the old world.

* * *

A LESSON FROM AUSTRALIA

The very substantial advantages which may be conferred upon producers and consumers by a Government owned line of ships directed with a view primarily to service rather than profit, were revealed by Mr. Coleman, M.P. in the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, in a recent speech. Comparing the freights given by the Australian Government service with the higher rates charged by the privately owned line from New Zealand, Mr. Coleman quoted figures showing that:

The charge for carrying frozen rabbits from New Zealand to the United Kingdom was 10 shillings per ton measurement more than from Australia. The carriage of apples was 4 pence a case more. Frozen lambs were 3 shillings and 10 pence per ton weight more. The additional freight for the carriage of beef was 41 3s. 4d. per ton (over 15). If Australian shippers were on New Zealand rates, they would have paid last year £229,000 more to send their refrigerated consignments to British markets. On figures of the previous year the extra amount involved would have been £400,000.

It is not surprising that the Commonwealth line should have come under attack from private interests. If a Canadian Government line could provide similar advantages over privately owned ships to shippers of Canadian farm products they would give such an impetus to production as would go far towards the solution of the land settlement question.

News from Alberta Wheat Pool Head Office

Information for Members and Lists Issued by the Department of Education and Publicity of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVE WHEAT PRODUCERS LIMITED (Wheat Pool)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Edmonton district—Geo. Bennett, Mannville.

Camrose district—Law Hutchinson, Delamater.

Red Deer District—H. W. Wood, Cochrane (Chairman).

North Calgary district—R. A. MacPherson, Delta.

South Calgary district—Eug. S. Plomer, Bassano.

Charlevoix district—J. John Strong, Charlevoix.

Lethbridge district—C. Jones, Melfort.

Listeners in Express Views on the Wheat Pool Broadcast

Comments From Many Points on Alberta Wheat Pool Service

The Alberta Wheat Pool uses the radio to keep in intimate touch with its members and provide them with information concerning the organization. Every Friday evening the Pool "goes on the air." Broadcasting is done from the Calgary Herald station, CFAC and the W. W. Grant station, CFCN. By means of the telephone wires the broadcast goes out from CICA, the Edmonton Journal station, simultaneously with the Calgary stations.

Recently a request was made for comments on our broadcasts by listeners-in. Herewith are printed extracts from some of the letters received.

Regular Listener-In

Dennis Galloway, Coar.—I am a regular listener-in to the Pool broadcast. Kindly send me a copy of "Feeling Alberta's Wheat."

Days Keep It Up

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Adams, Macleod.—We appreciate your program very much. Keep it up. Please allow me a request—the song "The Wheat of the Tinnies."

Doing Good Work

A. R. Hansen, Big Valley.—You are doing good work over the air, and I have heard a good many favorable reports upon the Pool broadcast this winter.

Needs New Content

Bertha Templeman, Edmonton.—Would like to remind you we enjoy radio concert given by you every Friday night. We are sending new content by this mail.

Beloved the Bishop

Gifford Sorenson, Viking.—Thanks for the splendid program you broadcasted tonight. I enjoyed the songs of Mr. Bishop and the music of Miss Bishop very much.

Appreciate Entertainment

Mr. and Mrs. Dorey, Ensign.—We certainly fully appreciate the entertainment the Wheat Pool staff gives us Friday evenings, as well as the information which we get. The reception here is just fine.

Applause

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Davis, Vauxhall.—We wish to congratulate Miss Scott on the song she sang last evening. The program was very good and I hope we may have the pleasure of hearing her again.

Success for "Annie Laurie"

Vincent Erickson, Scandinavia, Alta.—We listen to your speech and program every Friday night, and I would like to know if Mr. Bishop would sing "Annie Laurie." We sure appreciate the program.

Broadcasts Too Short

Joe C. McCabe, Ashmont.—I heard your address and songs tonight from Calgary. Both were fine. One serious trouble with broadcasts as far—they are too short.

Alliance Man Appreciative

H. W. Reicher, Alliance.—I am writing to thank you for your broadcast on Friday evening. Will you convey my thanks to Mr. Bishop for his solos, also to the young ladies we have heard on previous occasions.

Not Long Enough

R. W. Francis, Aradson, Alta.—I think the Pool broadcast does more to get new contracts than any other thing and hope you will keep the good work up. Wish you could make it one hour broadcast instead of half hour every Friday.

Good Reception in North

A. J. Gorman, Athabasca, Alta.—Mr. Bishop's vocal contribution to the broadcast was very much appreciated, as also were the previous programs. These broadcasts usually come over well to this north-of-the-river district.

Well Satisfied

F. C. C. Andrews, Vulcan.—Taking everything into consideration I have been well satisfied by the service rendered by our organization. I take this method of thanking you and the whole staff, including the broadcasting artists as well.

Doing Good

R. F. Both, Lethbridge.—We appreciate your broadcasts immensely. They are going to do more and more good as people get to know the aims of our organization and its purpose. Mr. Bishop and Miss Bishop were very good indeed.

Song Request

Mrs. Stanley Brown, Quenstown, P.O.—Heard your program broadcast on Friday evening, February 24th, which we very much appreciated; also the songs sung by one of the staff, but forget his name. Request "Widdie Creech Fair."

Learn Lots About Pool

R. M. Housings, Iron Springs.—We sure enjoy every number given at your

broadcast and listen in every Friday night. We wish to thank every one who takes part. Since we have had a radio we have learned a lot about the Pool and wish it every success.

Hopes for Results

W. R. Sharpe, Munson, Alta.—The Wheat Pool broadcast this evening, February 10th, was fine, and I wish to convey my appreciation of the artists. I hope the appeal of Mr. Mangies brings a contract from every listener-in who has not yet signed.

It Was Printed in "U.F.A."

R. N. Gooding, Tramping Lake.—I wish to congratulate Mr. Mangies on his radio address of February 10th. If possible I should like to receive a printed copy of it. Wishing the Alberta Pool the success it deserves in the renewal campaign.

Wants More Elevators

Chas. Dennis, Red Willow.—About the broadcast I may say this: I think the money could be put to better use to build more elevators as the air is full of that stuff and possibly only 50 per cent of Pool members have radios and receive benefit, if there is any.

Proud of Pool

Fred A. Nelson, Frumpy, Alta.—I was listening in on your Pool program last Friday night, January 27th. It came in fine. I would like to congratulate the girls who were singing. I forgot their names but tell them I would like to hear them again. I am also proud to be a member of the Pool.

Liked Mangies' Talk

K. Kirberg, Coar.—May I express my appreciation of the broadcast for the past two weeks. The talk by Mr. Mangies was very much to the point and should do a lot of good. It is too bad that the interference spoiled Mr. Bishop's song somewhat, but hope to hear him again soon.

Old Battle Fan

John Morrison, Wetaskiwin.—Your broadcast on the night of February 24 came in very clear after you got started. Could it not be possible to give a full hour instead of what we are getting? What you have put on will stand up with anything that goes over the air. (Mr. Morrison is one of the oldest radio fans.)

For the Pool

Martin Johnson, Eureka, Calif. Your program came in fine. Thanks to Mr. Bishop. Did get some interference for a little while that your announcer mentioned. I'm for the Wheat Pool and hope to see it flourish as I own land jointly with my father-in-law in the Edmonton district. I'm sure that he is a member now, and I will be in the near future.

Good Points

W. J. Dillens, Viking.—I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the broadcast program this evening and especially the musical part—it was fine.

The talk also brought out some good points of information. You have my best wishes in your appeal for the sign-up of the new series contract; and also I am at your service to help in any way I can.

Want More of Him

Chas. F. T. Kirby, Redland.—Your time for broadcasting is too short. Can you give us an hour? Friday suits us alright but if the majority wish for some other night we do not mind. Mr. Bishop is a good entertainer—so original and refreshing from the ordinary. We would like to hear him again. Yes, try and give us an hour.

Want Bishop Back

J. A. Love, Vulcan.—We endeavor to listen in every Friday evening to the broadcast. We have always found them interesting and instructive, and now they are also entertaining. We greatly enjoyed Mr. Bishop's numbers this evening and certainly hope to hear him again. We would like to thank you and the various members of the staff for the entertainment given us.

Wants Different Night

F. W. Coates, Leduc.—In listening to your broadcast tonight I notice you want opinions on the question of changing your broadcast to some other evening than Friday. I think it would be very desirable to do so. As your correspondent stated, Friday night is largely given over to various entertainments and I know for a fact you would have a great many more listeners on any other evening.

Request for Mr. Herbert

Chas. F. G. Kirby, Redland, Alta.—I wish to congratulate you on your broadcast program this evening, January 27th. It was most interesting. The solos by the young lady came in very clearly. I have had a radio set for a long time and I would like to say that I have never heard a better speech than that by Mr. Herbert. As a member of the Wheat Pool I say I am proud of our broadcasting half-hour.

Curious Call for Herbert

A. G. Matthew, Lloydminster.—What I would like to suggest is that you allow Mr. Herbert who spoke about the farm women of Alberta and the Wheat Pool, to conclude his speech. He certainly spoke very nicely and clearly, his voice and enunciation being good. Although I am a bachelor I will admit the subject matter of his talk was excellent; put him on again.

Wants Change

Andrew Sample, Lundanville.—I listened to your broadcast last Friday night and would like to support a change from Friday night to some other night as practically all our entertainments in the country are on a Friday night, chiefly because there is no school on Saturday, so people don't have to worry about being up late that night. Mr. Bishop's singing came over good.

Don't Want Us to Stop

M. C. Neilson, Halkirk.—I certainly hope that you will not stop the weekly radio programs. We listen in every Friday and would not miss it for a great deal. I know that there are farmers by the hundred that do the same, both Pool and non-Pool. I would think that you have an enormous audience. There are nine in this house, but we are a little

backward in writing you to tell you how much we like you.

Always Listens In

D. McCormick, Castor, Alta.—Your Wheat Pool talks, every Friday evening, come in splendidly over the air. The entertainments in the country are usually on Friday evening, and on that account the young people do not hear the talks. I do not attend those things (dances) and am always here but there are others who do, and of course miss hearing the splendid programs.

Liked Bob's Talk

A. F. Wright, Ardley, Alta.—Bob Mangles' little talk came through in fine style last night. Those of us who heard it surely appreciated it. Just convey to him our good wishes and the hope that he will not have nervous prostration before the interim payment is made out. We wish you all success with future broadcasts, and trust that they will be as productive of good results as our Creamery ones were last winter.

U. S. Listener-In

Miss Jane Thibson, San Francisco, Calif.—This evening about 7:30 P.S.T., we heard the Wheat Pool broadcast and a talk on the wheat growers meeting which is to be held at Chancellor Hall on March 15th. Mr. Max Bishop, accompanied by his daughter, sang "Not Exactly Original"—a medley of 15 songs. Enjoyed the numbers very much, and your station, which we have had before, comes in loud and clear. Would appreciate a verification to add to our log.

Oakland Listener In

T. Bakkan, Oakland, Calif.—Just finished listening to your station at 7:45 p.m. Heard a Mr. Bishop sing after the lecture on the Canadian Wheat Pool, which came in very clearly. We enjoyed this very much as it is the first time we have had your station and we are former residents of Calgary and Edmonton. I would appreciate it very much if you would send me time of your regular broadcast. Thanking you in advance, I remain, Yours truly.

Wants Dialogue

Samuel Yeomans, Pickardville, Alta.—Just a few lines to thank you and all the other kernels who contribute to the many friends of the Wheat Pool their very efficient efforts to amuse those who are so far away from such amusements. I have often intended to write to the office about their concert offerings which I am sure are as good as any we get, so keep it up. Could you give us a few dialogues once in a while? Thanking you in anticipation.

Pleased with Pool

John P. Minette, Strone, Alberta.—Have been listening to the Wheat Pool broadcasts and like them fine. Hope you will be able to broadcast 30 minutes or one hour in the near future. Am pleased with the Pool, also glad that enough signed the second series contract so as to enable the Pool to go ahead and provide more elevator facilities. Our local elevator has handled a large amount to date. I have a Chevrolet truck and made 11 trips to the elevator in 9 hours. Wishing the Wheat Pool lots of success.

Likes the Broadcasts

B. C. Kerslake, Youngstown.—I listen in to your radio broadcast every Friday

evening and receive it good from Calgary or Edmonton. There is some interference from distant stations, but I think it fine to be able to hear what the farmers' own organization are doing. We also enjoy the few songs mixed in. I heard Mr. R. N. Mangles on the 17th and it was like old times to have Bob on the platform; and if he did not waken up a few "not in a hurry" fellows, he should have. Wishing you every success.

A Suggestion

R. W. Hance, Rochford Bridge.—Enjoyed your program tonight. Would like to hear Mr. Bishop again. I think he sings "It Must Be the Altitude"—perhaps he would favor with this number soon. His date of Pool broadcast being changed: I would suggest to those interested in dancing on Fridays to instal a receiver in the Dance Hall for the occasion. This should not entail much trouble as where the halls are located there are folks who possess receivers. After all, the prosperity and entertainments they hope to enjoy are the outcome of the proceeds that can be obtained for wheat and other farm products.

Thinks Pool Best Thing

Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Cookson, South View Farm, Loughheed.—Just a line to let you know how very much we enjoyed your broadcast this evening. The singing of Mr. Bishop was just splendid, as also was Miss Bishop's playing. I may say we listen to your Wheat Pool talks every Friday evening and find them very interesting. We are Pool members ourselves and think it the best thing that could happen to the farmers of Western Canada and elsewhere. Give our thanks to the artists who gave their services over the air for the benefit of Wheat Pool members. We can assure them it is thoroughly appreciated.

One Experience Related

M. C. Graham, Liverton, Alta.—I write to say that I have enjoyed very much your radio broadcast, both the music and the talks. Also I want to tell you that when Harry B. George, of Tring, received something over \$80 from the Pool for oats cleaned out of his car of wheat it caused more non-members to sit up and rub their eyes than anything that ever happened here. Some of them are still wondering what it was that woke them up. I would suggest that you spread the true story in detail of the George transaction as well as any other like it by radio and ink, and perhaps a few more sleep-heads will wake up inside the next 100 years.

A Dream Come True

D. M. Russell, Carmangay.—I am pleased to have the opportunity of signing a Wheat Pool contract, which I will send in later. The Pool was a dream that came true with the farmer, and we are going to support it. I am very glad to have our old friend as Superintendent of elevators. We hope his health improves and he has the best wishes of a heap of friends. I cannot close without an expression of appreciation for the years of labor and study for our people that has been given by that grand old man, Henry Wise Wood. We cannot pay him back—the bill has gone into millions. Words cannot express our sincere thanks.

A Warning

L. R. MacMillan, Cadaby.—I have listened in on your broadcasts from the

(Continued on page 14)

Budget Carries in Alberta Legislature Without Division Following Week's Debate—Progress of Legislation

Debate on Provincial Finances Comes to Quick Termination When Premier Answers Critics in Powerful Speech—Mastery to be Made Into State Medicine.

STAFF CORRESPONDENCE

Matheson, Webster, McGillivray, on the Problems of Finance

Bill for Sale of L. & N. W. Railway Given Second Reading—Power Company's Bill

MONDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 27.—It won't be long now. The budget debate is in full swing. Bills are dealt with at the evening session. Strenuous efforts are being made to bring the session to a close. In the forenoon the private bills committee heard witnesses on the Northern Power Company bill. In the afternoon four debates on the budget entered the noisome arena. Red hot figures burned the hands of some of those who used them, but still they persisted till six o'clock. Then in the evening the Lacombe and North Western Sale bill was given second reading after a spirited debate, one or two other minor bills were dealt with, the L. & N. W. bill was advanced a stage to go into Committee of the Whole House, emerging for third reading. This was to facilitate the audit of the books by the C.P.R. and the survey of the particulars. Finally a discussion on the sterilisation bill in Committee of the Whole led to one small amendment covering unanimity of Board's decision to operate.

A. M. MATHESON ASSUMES DEBATE

A. M. Matheson (U.F.A.), Vegreville, in resuming the debate on the budget, referred to the loss sustained to the revenues of the Province by the disallowance of the coal tax, the reduction of assessment in the supplementary revenue and the reduction of the Dominion subsidies which had created a deficit due to no fault of the Government. Touching on the fact of large increases of the assets of banking institutions as indicative of the trend toward more prosperous times, he thought it might be well to study certain essentials necessary to progress at this time.

The main essentials were natural resources, man power and capital. Dealing with the latter first, he noted the reduced rate of interest which the Province was called to pay on bonds floated last year. Farm loans did not share that reduced rate, as mortgage companies, in his opinion, while knowing the downward trend, took advantage of the lack of knowledge on the part of the average farmer to keep interest rates up to 9 or 10 per cent. He hinted at the introduction of a resolution asking the Dominion Government to compel mortgage companies to accept complete payment of a loan at any time on payment of a bonus by the farmer.

Introduced by the Provincial Treasurer, Hon. R. G. Reid, on February 24th, the Alberta Budget was carried without division on March 2nd. During the week spokesmen of the Liberal and Conservative parties offered certain criticism of its provisions. Premier Brownlee answered the Government's critics in a speech which was described in the daily press as the greatest in his career, and the debate came to a close shortly afterwards.

Considerable progress was made at evening sittings during the week in the advancement of legislation, the main features of which are outlined by our correspondent in the daily reports in this issue. Important amendments of the Noxious Weeds Act were passed by the Assembly in Committee of the Whole.

The rural municipal unit was too large and the overhead too costly. By the adoption of an increased size of municipal district with one executive, road policies could be carried out on the contract basis much better than at present; this would be a more competent taxing authority; and high school education would receive attention. The necessity of a Province-wide tax for education was discussed, the enlarging of the technical side of education stressed as Mr. Matheson thought it more imperative that pupils should have a technical rather than a merely academic education.

With regard to immigration, the time had come for the Province to take a hand in regulating the flow, particularly at its own border. They should exercise the fullest extent of their competency in this regard. In addition to the work of soil survey, the Government should pay attention to the development of overseas markets for farm products, and provide protection through inspection at the local elevator to prevent the great losses sustained by farmers on grading of wheat.

Mr. Matheson advocated the spending of fifteen millions on highway construction within the next five years, as had been suggested by George Webster previously. By earmarking gasoline taxes the tourist would thus pay a large amount indirectly to the meeting of charges for this purpose. He pointed out the danger of the cityward drift of the farm folks, pointing out that in the U.S., 10 per cent of the population owned 40 per cent of the land; 40 per cent owned 10 per cent of the land; and 80 per cent owned no land at all.

WEBSTER ON ALBERTA'S FINANCES

George Webster, (Lib.), Calgary, once more took the role of financial critic of the Government. The people were becoming alarmed, he asserted, at the continued increase in taxation with no hope

of a reduction in sight. Quoting authorities, he pointed out that the per capita revenues of Alberta exceeded all Provinces except B.C. Subsidies from the Dominion were greater comparatively than in any other Province; these things were alarming and justified criticism.

Public debt had increased from \$41,800,000.00 in 1920 to \$87,000,000 in 1927, and an increase of \$5,000,000 was forecast for 1928, getting dangerously near the \$100,000,000 mark. In the eight year period other Governments were shown to have been decreasing their public debt. The member thought there would be explanations that the railways, telephones, highways and the University were responsible for the increase, but there were many other items which were not explained. Where did the other millions go to?

TWO ADDITIONS TO DEBT IN 1928

Mr. Headley: "Why did you take the year 1920? Why not 1921 when \$17,500,000 were added in one year?"

Mr. Webster admitted that, as a contributory cause, then went on to deal with revenue and expenditure. In 1920 net revenue had been \$8,709,000 and expenditure balanced. In 1928-29 revenue was estimated at \$13,273,614 and expenditure \$13,262,030, not including telephones, the expenditure thus increasing to the extent of \$4,000,000 in spite of increases of taxation.

Mr. Webster complained that it was impossible to make a comparison between the actual expenditures and the estimates because of the omission of the figures from the estimates this year.

Treasurer Reid pointed out that the public accounts were not yet completed, and though everything was earlier than formerly, they would not be down for a few days.

The largest item of expenditure was the interest on the public debt. Eight years ago it had been \$1,600,000; in 1928 it would be \$4,700,000, an increase of \$3,000,000. The explanation that this was largely due to railways, university, etc., was not good enough, said Mr. Webster, as he thought that with \$4,000,000 increase in revenue, and allowing three and a half millions for the public debt, there would still be one and a half millions to account for.

INTEREST ON DEBTS OF 1921

Mr. Headley: "One of these millions is on account of the interest on the debts of 1921."

Mr. Webster: "Yes, and also that we have allowed the Minister of Agriculture to chase economic rainbows for the past eight years."

Criticising the receipts and expenditures of the Attorney General's Department, he said there must be the sum of \$2-

\$90,000 from this Department turned over to general revenue. When he was quoting per capita figures from the taxation report with a view to show that Alberta compared unfavorably with other Provinces in the matter of receipts and expenditures, the Premier asked the member from Calgary to read the references in the report to the reasons for this.

Mr. Webster quoted a short reference, but the Premier invited him to go further. He went on to describe as dangerous the practice of spending money by special warrant, quoting from the Treasury Act. The distribution of education expenditures came in for criticism, the chief of which was that the University received too much in comparison with elementary and secondary education. The latter worked out at about \$8.95 per pupil and the former at \$800 per pupil.

Mr. Webster had compounded his differences with the Minister of Public Works on the question of payments for construction and maintenance of roads. While not asking that this Province should emulate the road expenditures of the states to the south, they should at least keep step with other Provinces.

The Calgary member tried to show where cuts could be made in the expenditures. Chief of these was an appeal to all members to turn \$500 back into revenue, the leaders to forego their special indemnity. His leader was willing, he said.

CONSERVATIVE LEADER SPEAKS

Conservative Leader McGillivray recalled the different sums by which the public debt had increased from the year 1820 up until 1927, which he said amounted to an increase of \$5,000,000 per year. Expenditures had increased so rapidly that no one could push push it; they could talk of minor things, or utter words of high praise of the Government, but the fact remained that the debt grew \$5,000,000 per year, and expenditures were one million a year above receipts. No petty economies were going to solve this problem.

One of the prime causes of the heavy burden was the railway ventures. He counselled getting out as soon as practicable without too great loss. He had advised this long ago, but the Government he said, had declared that this was impossible as there were no purchasers in sight. He thought the Government had turned a mental somersault.

Mr. Headley: "It was the railways which somersaulted."

Mr. McGillivray: "The Minister will have his little joke." He contended that the railway companies were anxious to purchase, but that any haughty attitude of not peddling the roads would not be conducive to a sale.

People and more people was his idea of a solution. He read the North America Act to show that the Province had the same jurisdiction with regard to immigration as they had with regard to agriculture, no more and no less, a remark which some legislators thought left the matter as abundantly clear as mud. The Dominion had miserably failed in spite of vast expenditures to either get or keep settlers, and the Province was justified in sending Greenfield to Britain, a step in the right direction.

Cut out this policy of laissez faire—this do nothing—went on the leader, but noting the Premier smile he asked if the smile was at the thought of the \$5,000,000 yearly increase or if it was at his (the leader's) remedy? The Premier said he would disclose his secret thoughts

bye and bye. Mr. McGillivray then advocated the creation of a Board or commission to study and carry out the work of the selection and colonization of the settlers brought to the Province. If these things were not done he forecasted the doom of the government.

LOVE CRITICIZES THE CRITICS

J. Russell Love (U.F.A.), Irma, criticized the critics by pointing out that they had not shown one way to keep down capital expenditures. He challenged them to go through the estimates and point out one of the improvements estimated for which could be cancelled.

Take one item, said he, that of \$700,000 under the Department of Agriculture for Livestock Encouragement Act. This was included because when there had come a great decrease in interest rates the Government had retired past borrowing, thus saving two per cent. This had been done by taking the loans from the banks.

Education had a big addition of \$200,000 but this would be largely offset by receipts of \$150,000 additional. The railways were the cause of three and one-third millions expenditure and as these had carried without dissenting vote it surely signified that there could be no cut here. The extensions were justified. Public Works had an expenditure of three and a third millions; two and a half could be credited to bridges, ferries, etc. Did any one suggest a reduction here?

Mr. Love adjourned the debate.

SECOND READING OF L. & N. W. BILL

At the evening session the sale of the Lacombe and North Western Railway Bill was given second reading. The Minister, Hon. V. W. Smith, pointed out that the L. & N.W. did not have the potential value to the Province possessed by the Northern roads. For the first twenty miles the railway had the competition of trucks to meet. If the Government retained the road it would have ultimately to build toward Edmonton at a cost of one and a half millions with another half million for terminals.

The net corporate loss on the railway was \$133,932.35. With regard to the north road last year the revenue averaged \$3,000 per mile. The C.N.R. averaged \$11,500 per mile and the C.P.R. \$13,000 per mile. They had only to increase revenue five times to become on a par with roads paying ten per cent dividend. Not so with the L. & N.W. He did not agree with the Conservative Leader that we should get out of the railway business just at this time. The Government had been consistent in its policies and had not somersaulted. It was due to their pressure that there had been any offer at all, and only because of the fact that the Northern Roads had been in the bargaining as well.

Moving second reading of the bill, the Minister said the Government would be well advised to part with the road now.

D. C. Bretton and W. W. Prevey expressed the opinion of the people west of the end of steel, one claiming that they wanted the road carried on to Edmonton and the other saying that they were contented with the extension meantime. The Premier favoured the latter view.

Mr. McGillivray thought, in view of operating deficits and net corporate losses, it seemed good business to sell to the C.P.R. His group were not going to oppose.

Col. Weaver (Cons.), Edmonton, expressed similar views. Then the Premier

ended the debate by answering objections. All the correspondence had been laid on the table to the best of his recollection. There had been no offer of any kind prior to last year. There was no competition for the road between the companies. The Government could not force a company's hands. Boards of Trade and influential bodies were trying to get the C.P.R. to move. The C.P.R. could make the line more successful by linking it up to the C. & E. There would be an annual saving to the Province of \$175,000.

Other bills dealt with were to protect the holders of common stock and to alter the charter to enable the C.P.R. to link up with the C. & E. between Leduc and Edmonton.

STERILIZATION BILL TO BE AMENDED

The Sterilization Bill was amended in committee to make it necessary that the decision of the Board be "unanimous" before operation be ordered. L. A. Giroux wanted the word "incurable" inserted before the word "inmate", but the Assembly turned this down.

A. A. McGillivray had the journals of the House changed by deleting the word "unanimous," in reference to the vote favoring the retention of the northern railways. When the vote was called there were quite a number of Noes, so that the decision to change the minutes was not unanimously carried.

NORTHERN POWER COMPANY'S BILL

An act to incorporate the Northern Alberta Power Company was considered in the Private Bills Committee today. This measure seeks a franchise on behalf of the promoters of the bill to secure sole and exclusive rights to distribute, supply, sell and deal in electricity for power, light, heat or any other purpose within an area extending from Coalpur to Mountain Park. The petitioners were represented by George H. Steer, and the objectors, Stirling Mines, Coal Valley Coal Co., Cadomin Mines and Saunders Ridge Coal Co., were represented by S. B. Woods. The latter attacked the exclusive feature of the measure on behalf of all, but said that if an amendment were adopted providing that operating companies would retain powers to manufacture and supply electricity to their own properties or to points outside the area specified, organized objection would be withdrawn.

The objections of the Stirling Mines and the Coal Valley Mines were based on the fact that these companies owned what were known as stripping mines, the product of which was obtained by steam shovel methods. These companies wanted to retain rights either to use slack coal for the production of power themselves or grant their facilities to some company for that purpose. The granting of an exclusive franchise to the petitioners would mean that the values of the steam coal owned by these objectors would be in effect confiscated.

George H. Steer, speaking for the promoters, said that he had the signatures of several who were stated to be objectors on the original petition. The Board of Trade at Edmonton were in favor of the scheme. The promoters were bona fide operators, who had spent around a million and a half in building railways which some of the objectors had used without restriction. He stated that his clients had no objection to coal companies supplying their own properties or even of demands arising outside the area referred to. The expenditure of seven or eight

hundred thousand dollars could not be readily made unless there was some slight protection such as the bill afforded. Then there was the question of duration of the franchise. In the bill, which had been drafted on the Dominion Water Power regulations, it stated that the rights would run for fifty years to be covered by an option on the part of the Government to take over the plant at the end of twenty-five years after suitable notice had been given. The promoters were now agreeable to make the term fifteen years with a Government option at any time on notice.

Considerable discussion took place on whether the supply of power could be more cheaply provided through centralization rather than on small isolated plants, the consensus being in favor of the larger unit. Premier Brownlee suggested that as there were members of the Assembly who were not members of the Committee who wished to debate the bill that it be reported and dealt with in Committee of the Whole House. This was agreed to.

J. R. Love Deals With Webster's Figures in Speech on Budget

O. L. McPherson to Settle Argument on Roads Expenditure and Revenue by Certified Statement

TUESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 28.—George Webster, Calgary, was the recipient, whether he liked it or not, of a few left-handed compliments during the course of the budget debate in the afternoon.

First J. Russell Love, Wainwright, upset the mathematical apparatus of the Calgary member by giving further details of revenues and expenditures which made the former figures appear in the light of half truths; then the Minister of Public Works, who has been annoyed at the persistency of the misstatements made by the Calgary member long after the facts had been presented, announced that in order to settle the matter for all time he was having the auditor prepare a certified statement showing actual receipts and expenditures which he would lay upon the table of the Assembly; then the last slam, to end the brief eventful history, came from the Labor benches through the mediumship of R. H. Parkyn.

"I am glad to know that my friend the ex-Mayor has been converted to secondary education," the Labor member said, "for though I was half asleep while he was speaking, the reference to education woke me up, and I recall that of all those upon whom the sin of opposing education in the city of Calgary lay the worst was of that man there (pointing dramatically), although it turned out that he never became the scapegoat upon whom the sin was laid and sent out into the wilderness."

Lucien Boudreau (Lib.), St. Albert, also participated in the debate, adding his customary jocular jibes at the Attorney General's department and the Minister of Agriculture.

Joseph T. Shaw, Bow Valley, adjourned the debate.

LONG DEBATE ON WEED ERADICATION

At the evening sitting a debate on weed eradication lasted until ten minutes past eleven, p.m., the subject being

introduced by Col. Weaver in a resolution asking for the appointment of a special commission to arouse public sentiment to the danger from weeds, especially sow thistle; to enforce the law; and to co-operate with other Provinces in waging ruthless war on weeds. The Minister pointed out that already practically all that was asked for in the resolution had been provided for by the Government. The appointment of an advisory committee consisting of four well-known capable and experienced citizens was contemplated and the amending of the Weed Act to allow the Department to appoint inspectors where municipalities failed in their duty, had already been accomplished. Education, rather than punitive measures, was the goal aimed at.

Participants in the debate were A. A. McGillivray (Cons.); N. S. Smith (U.F.A.); Olds; Earl Cook (U.F.A.); Pincher Creek, who gave the only real inside information from the practical side of the question; C. L. Gibbs (Lab.), Edmonton, who pointed out that like the others on that side of the Assembly his lack of knowledge of the subject eminently qualified him to discuss it, and J. T. Shaw (Lib.), who pointed out the weakness of the resolution while commending the spirit in which it was introduced.

W. W. Prevey tried hard to shelve the question for a day by adjourning the debate, but the Assembly would have none of that. So it dragged along until eleven o'clock, when it finally came to a division. All the support given the resolution was that of the four stalwarts who claim to represent 71 per cent of the voters, while all the ranks of Tuscany which fill the overflow benches but represent about the indivisible minimum of the electorate, sided and abetted by J. T. Shaw, L. A. Giroux, and Lucien Boudreau, good farmers all, voted against the motion, a total of 4 for and 37 against. It will be seen that the Conservative motion did not carry unanimously. Labor did not vote. The Government's Town Planning and Preservation of Natural Beauty Act and amendments to the Land Titles Act were introduced, and given first reading.

LOVE DELIVERS POWERFUL SPEECH

The speech of J. R. Love was a masterpiece in its field, that of an analysis of the financial situation. All the criticism of the opposition had been against the increase of the public debt and the increase of expenditures by the various departments. What they had failed miserably to do was to show how this could be curtailed. Instead of that they had made further demands for highways and other services which, if undertaken, would materially increase the capital expenditures.

Mr. Love challenged opponents to point to one public building, one institution, one highway, one telephone line or one service of any description which had not been justified. If it was once admitted that capital expenditures for the creation of these things had been justified, how could the subsequent payments of interest charges on these capital expenditures be condemned? He invited members to rise and show how to reduce or even to show how to maintain at the present level the expenditures of the Province. The great problem with all modern governments was how to raise revenue to meet the increasing demands of expansion. He analyzed the various sources of revenue. In 1908, the Dominion subsidies had provided 87 per cent of revenue required

to carry on; to-day they had furnished only 18 per cent, leaving 82 per cent to be found by the Province. The per capita analysis of Mr. Webster had not been fairly stated. The only safe basis as to which to state per capita taxation was to show it against per capita production. If done fairly in that way, Alberta had the lowest per capita taxation in consequence with production of any Canadian Province.

DUE TO COMMITMENTS OF 1921

With regard to the mysterious disappearance of the million and a half touched on by Mr. Webster, the member from Wainwright gave all the figures. It was worse than stated, as it was a million and three quarters. But as to say the increase to that amount had not been due to any commitments by the present Government, but had been accounted for by the commitments of 1921. All that had been added to the pile of expenditures due to commitments of the present Government amounted to the small sum of \$20,000.

A large amount of the taxation complained of was not compulsory. Take liquor taxes. No one was compelled to contribute to that source. Not even automobile taxes, nor gasoline taxes were of a compulsory nature.

The supplementary revenue tax was more stable, though the loss due to decreased valuation should be noted; Dominion subsidies would not come within three million dollars of meeting the interest charges alone, not to speak of spending any of it for services. Wild lands tax brought \$491,000 in Saskatchewan but only \$369,000 in Alberta. The member quoted from the taxation report to show that Alberta compared most favorably with other Provinces regarding expenditures on highways. In Alberta with 600,000 population and a revenue of two millions, 3.33 per cent was spent on highways. In Ontario with three million people and a revenue of ten millions, 3.98 per cent was so spent.

The University did not confine its work to teaching only. Expenditures were made for research and other work of a most valuable nature. Still, \$100,000 less was being spent by this Province on its university than Saskatchewan, although there were 100 more students in Alberta.

Three sources of revenue were analyzed—potential, direct and accumulative. The member favored direct and accumulative taxes, the latter applicable in older settled Provinces where wealth had accumulated. Succession duties had netted Alberta \$253,611; Manitoba, \$757,488; and Ontario, \$8,761,863. It would be realized, however, that potential income that is taxes on land and natural resources were more applicable in a new country. He then contrasted land taxes in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan had a rural population of 70 per cent and an urban 30 per cent. Alberta's rural population was 62 per cent and urban 38. Agricultural production in Saskatchewan was around 142 million dollars higher than Alberta. Therefore it was easy to understand that on a 2 mill basis Saskatchewan received \$861,511 more than Alberta from that source.

On the other hand on a comparison with regard to manufacturing and mineral production, Alberta was 113.4 per cent more industrialized than Saskatchewan. Total payroll over a five year period amounted to \$115,000,000. The Daily

income tax during six years yielded \$3,138,337 in Saskatchewan and \$11,232,568 from Alberta. This was taking \$532,705 per year more from Alberta than from Saskatchewan. For every dollar Saskatchewan received from land taxes the Dominion received \$1.39 in income tax; and for every dollar received from land taxes in Alberta the Dominion received \$1.39 in income taxes. He thought the combination of potential and income taxes would be best suited to this Province.

He made further comparisons with regard to expenditures, discussed immigration; favored the co-operative method of obtaining supplies and credits; and dealt with the agricultural production of 1927.

O. L. McPHERSON TAKES HAND IN DEBATE

O. L. Macpherson, Minister of Public Works, deplored the use of the "old stereotyped methods" of criticism employed by the Liberal member from Calgary. He had hoped for something constructive. He did not share, nor did he think the country shared, the alarm expressed at the increasing amounts necessary for expansion in the Province. He would be alarmed rather if there was stagnation or standing still in the provision of increased conveniences and services.

Dealing with many of the statements of the opposition, he wanted particularly to comply with the many editorials lately which demanded a showdown between his figure and those of the Calgary ex-Mayor. To accommodate the Press in this respect he was going to lay on the table a certified copy of the complete receipts and expenditures of the years referred to—1924-25-8.

To anyone who could show how to increase highway construction as suggested by his opponents without at the same time increasing expenditures the Minister offered employment in his department if out of a job. He quoted figures showing that Alberta had exceeded both Saskatchewan and Manitoba in highway expenditures in 1924. Per capita had been higher here during other years. He refused to make the flimsy promise to the people that taxes would be reduced. He would tell the facts plainly and let the people judge for themselves.

John Irwin (Cons.), Calgary, revived his proposal of last year for the establishment of a bureau of information to be placed in charge of the educational work of farm immigrants. He voiced strong disapproval of the requests to remove the wild lands tax as made at the instance of certain large land companies. Some of these had contributed not one cent nor in any way to the colonization of the West. Not only would he make them contribute the tax as now in force, but he would favor its increase.

E. H. Parkyn (Lab.), Calgary, gave a free academic exposition of the accumulation, distribution and taxation of wealth. "Back to the land" as a slogan was all right, but as a reality was the bunk. Desertion of the farm for the city was the result of the present age of industrialism. All wealth is the product of labor, was his contention. Large incomes were a menace to society. No one should be allowed to hand on the power derived from the accumulation of wealth to descendants, in order that they might live in idleness at the expense of others' labor. Tax this accumulation, he urged. Tax it high enough and there would be no need for the aged indigent to knock at the door



Hon. O. L. McPHERSON

of the Department of Health for a hand-out, but the Old Age Pensions would be possible.

Joseph T. Shaw adjourned the debate.

State Medicine Will Be Investigated In Assembly's Decision

Later Resolution Adopted—Duggan and
Shaw Speak on Budget

WEDNESDAY'S HITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 28.—(Gold) The Lacombe and North Western has passed at last. The fateful 29th of February saw the three or four bills relating to all the different phases of the transaction rushed through the Assembly at break-neck speed, one of them being advanced from second reading through Committee of the Whole to third reading and enactment; another was taken from third reading, recommitted to Committee, and set again after minor correction. Then in came the Lieutenant-Governor, in mufti, accompanied by a solitary aide, to perform the last solemn obsequies, and this having been done with fitting dignity, the first of the Provincial railways to go passed unanimously out of public control to a wider and better life beyond. As Mr. Parkyn says, "So much for that."

Alberta's budget was considered further during the afternoon, two speakers taking part, Joseph T. Shaw (Lib.), Bow Valley, and D. M. Duggan (Cons.), Edmonton. Advocacy of the county system was the main feature of Mr. Shaw's address, and there was a slight clash of opinion between the Calgary member and the Premier on the question of the Tory report on taxation. Joseph T. made the statement that

the Commission had failed to perform its chief function. It had been commissioned to investigate the relations between the municipal units and the Province, he said, but on looking through the report he found only a few lines on that subject. The Premier asked the member if he was referring to the relations between municipal units and the Province or the county system, and Mr. Shaw let himself in for something when he replied, "The County System," because the terms of reference did not contain instructions to that effect. The report does, however, suggest the further investigation of the county system. But it is likely that John E. will point out the error when he speaks tomorrow. He adjourned the debate.

DUGGAN INCLINED TO GIVE HIS BLESSING

D. M. Duggan, (Cons.), Edmonton, surprised the Assembly by refraining from the employment of figures. He came pretty near giving his blessing to the Government *holus bolus*. Mr. McGillivray was not in his place, and the Edmonton member took advantage of the leader's absence to come out once more flat footed for the immediate sale of the R.D. & B.C. There was no equivocation here. He regretted the Minister of Railway's remark that the Province should keep the Northern road for some time, though he thought at the time the Minister spoke (during discussion of the L. & N.W.) he was under great strain as he was making his formal goodbye to one of his railways. But if it was the settled policy of the Government, he deplored it, because he contended that to hold on to railways which were costing two and a quarter millions when there was urgent need of market roads was not a wise policy. But the point came when L. A. Giroux asked the member if he would sacrifice the road; Mr. Duggan merely said, "Well, you can't have your cake and eat it too." Just wait till McGillivray comes back!

TO INVESTIGATE STATE MEDICINE

Fred J. White (Labor Leader), Calgary, had another innings under the benign blessing of the Minister of Agriculture, as Minister of Health, when he secured consent of the Assembly to an investigation of the principle of State Medicine. This will be carried out this year in a similar manner to the investigation of health insurance last year by the detailing of a member of the Government staff to investigate, compile and prepare same for presentation to the Assembly next session. This does not commit any side of the Assembly to the principle yet, but clears the field for intelligent action next year.

CIBPAL LEADER SUGGESTS CUTS

Now comes Joseph T. Shaw. The increased demand on the pocket book (of the taxpayer) gave him cause for reflection. He was not alarmed, although it was alarming the way the debt rose with a regularity which was monotonous. To live beyond one's income was to violate the fundamental principle of good financing. It was necessary to do something to discipline finances. Take them out into the back yard and spank 'em, was the equivalent of his metaphor. To do this effectively he noted the places where the rod of correction could be applied. For instance—Here is an estimate of \$14,500 for the extension of coal markets. Well, if success does not attend the effort soon, and the Dominion does not grant certain prerequisites, why—discontinue this

service and more meat of the \$14,500. But that is not all. Here is an item—Colonization Branch—last year, \$14,500—this year it will be \$18,000. Now, if we had lots of money to throw around this might be all right, but as there were hundreds of colonization agencies in the old land, this was superfluous. Why not co-operate with existing agencies and save the larger portion of the \$17,500?

And the Publicity Commissioner, Mr. Shaw did not need his services to tell him that they had a good crop last year, or to go on boasting about the winnings of Alberta beef at Chicago, or other services of a like nature. That could be dispensed with and save another matter of \$12,500. Wait till George tells him.

The matter of grants to Fairs. Calgary exposition board made lots of money; why was the grant of \$5000 necessary? Cut it in half, Mr. Shaw suggested. The Premier, who has a bad habit of putting things in a different light, asked the honorable gentleman if he did not realize that the Province received from these exhibitions a very substantial income. Mr. Shaw turned abruptly on another tack. The police. Here a very great saving could be made. Why delay. And the University. Mr. Shaw recited cases covering his early years to show that he was a true friend of higher education. But as a friend he wanted to know why the faculty of medicine could not be dispensed with, when the facilities at McGill were much more satisfactory. The cost of education at the university was out of all proportion to the grants to elementary and secondary. Arts and Agriculture were all right. He would continue them.

ALL ABOUT A FAIRER REPORT

Mr. Shaw and the Minister of Public Works had a combat on the Wednesday Press-Highway-Expenditure-Misunderstanding. Mr. Shaw quoted a Calgary paper as saying the Minister said. Mr. McPherson said he said, but he said he said more which the paper never said he said. So there's the rub. One could hardly tell from Mr. Shaw's speech whether he was quoting the Minister's speech or quoting the newspaper's version of the Minister's speech. The Minister rose several times to ask, but Mr. Shaw was wily. He would take the Minister at his word one minute, and then quote the paper's version to prove a point, then the minister would repudiate responsibility for the editorial, the member from Bow Valley would accept the Minister's statement, and once more forget it by making further direct quotations from the editorial. A vicious circle, Mr. Speaker. Worry wisdom!

Then came the Tory report, a tragically disappointing document. After two years of labor to bring forth this—a suggestion to the Government to make further inquiry. This was all which Mr. Shaw could find on the question of the constitutionality of the municipal units and the relationship between such and the Government.

The member then enlarged on the creation of larger municipal areas, pointing out the advantages of such a scheme and its relation to the more efficient functioning of local government. Perhaps this was the really worth while part of the Liberal leader's contribution. Colonization would be a part of the local unit constitution as well as better educational facilities. Mr. Shaw wound up with the question of the disposal of the Northern Railways as soon as practicable.

D. M. Duggan (Con.), Edmonton, told a story worth repeating. A professor had

reminded to Mrs. Duggan that her husband was becoming more like the Minister of Agriculture every day. Mr. Hoadley bit hard. "I take that as a great compliment," he said. "So do I," said Mr. Duggan, "but my wife has been well-nigh distracted ever since." After a few minutes the debate proceeded.

DUGGAN STILL OPTIMISTIC

Mr. Duggan was still optimistic in spite of deficits, though for the better standing of the Province's financial position elsewhere it were better to balance the budget. Predictions of financial experts were that better times were at hand. He quoted figures showing the growth of Canadian purchases of Government bonds, 50 per cent of which are now in the hands of Canadian investors. In 1927 \$397,000,000 of the total \$515,000,000 Government bonds were in Canadian hands. Mr. Christophers wanted to know how the distribution of these holdings was at present, but the member did not know off hand.

The background of reduction of the public debt lay in the creation of new wealth. Mr. Duggan was rather doubtful as to whether the Government had done its bit to open new avenues of wealth production, such as the giving of assistance to the interests at Fort McMurray in the development of the resources there. He wanted the question of pulpwood industry also canvassed, as he thought there might be a great future for an industry of that kind. Electric power was another potential, and the member thought that before the Government either of their own bat or by delegating to private interests, undertook the development of hydro, they should first investigate the feasibility of making use of the enormous coal resources which lay at their own door. While not an

expert himself, he quoted authorities in favor of steam rather than hydro.

Many of the causes of the deficit were from circumstances beyond the Government's control, but he thought that there were several, including the supplementary revenue tax, which could have been better estimated, as it was on a more or less stable basis. Either there must have been failure in collections or error in the Department's estimates last year.

HESTITATE TO CUT OFF SERVICES

It was easy for members to make criticism of incidental expenditures as had been done in the debate, but when the debt, including railways and telephones, reached the sum of \$104,000,000, the lopping off of incidentals was futile. He had great hesitancy in suggesting the cutting off of services. Market roads were a dire necessity. Interest charges were unavoidable with regard to commitments of capital, and sinking fund charges on highways absolutely essential. So the only thing left was to sell the railways.

The Lethbridge Northern meant the outlay of another \$500,000 a year, but the results were gratifying, and Mr. Duggan prophesied increased success for that project. The increase of the debt as estimated for this year would be around two and a quarter millions. Looking the items over, he noted the increase lay at the door of the railways. Then he made his submissions as before referred to. He wound up with a short criticism of the Tory report as inadequate and wanted the elimination of all guess work in the conduct of public business.

Mr. Brownlee adjourned the debate.

Royal assent was given to the railway bills, and also to a bill amending an ordinance respecting a religious institution.

Premier Answers Financial Critics in Exhaustive Speech on the Budget

Budget Peters Out and Finance Bill Carries Without Dissent Following Premier's Speech in Assembly—Deals With Figures of Opponents

THURSDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 1.—When John R. Brownlee finished speaking at fifteen minutes to five on Thursday afternoon, after having held forth since three, there was so little left to be said that the debate petered out at five minutes past six. Incidentally, opposition members must have felt decidedly uncomfortable as the Premier tore their arguments into shreds, and laid bare the inconsistencies of their figuring and the inconsistency and inadvisability of their suggested economies.

Other speakers were Perren Baker, Minister of Education; Attorney-General Lyburn; George MacLachlan (U.F.A.), Pembina; A. L. Sanders, (U.F.A.), Stettler; and R. G. Reid who closed the debate. Mr. Baker discounted the idea of closing the medical faculty at the University, pointing out that McGill was seriously overtaxed and that 50 per cent of applications had been refused. He also stated that in view of the fact that the whole system of rural school education was outworn and in the ensuing year attention would have to be devoted to the evolution of an entirely new system, it

was not wise at present for any of the members to pay too much attention to any one suggested scheme without waiting to consider which of the many alternatives would be best suited to this particular Province.

HEAVY LOSS THROUGH DELAYED SHIPMENT

George MacLachlan raised the question of heavy loss entailed to shippers on account of delay at the hands of the C.N.R. of cattle and hog shipments from the north, pointing out that the difference between a normal shrink and an abnormal one caused by the delay meant the loss of many dollars to the farmers of his district. The matter had been taken up with C.N.R. officials without result, and the member was going to apply the searchlight of publicity, in the endeavor to get action.

Attorney General Lyburn dealt with the matter of charges that his department was extravagant as well as the correction of statements about the George F. Smith case. He did this work well.

A. L. Sanders poked fun at northern members about roads and water, getting their goats somewhat in the process. He

The first part of the report discusses the current state of the market and the challenges it faces. It highlights the need for a comprehensive strategy to address these challenges and ensure long-term growth. The second part of the report provides a detailed analysis of the market's performance over the past year, including a comparison of key indicators and a breakdown of the data by region. The third part of the report outlines the proposed strategy and the steps that need to be taken to implement it. It also includes a timeline for the implementation of the strategy and a list of the key stakeholders involved in the process. The fourth part of the report provides a summary of the findings and conclusions of the study. It also includes a list of recommendations for further research and a list of references.

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the survey would come in as estimated. The local municipality and not the Province was the collection medium, and the fact that a large percentage of grain was still unthreshed was responsible for the failure to collect.

The question was then put and carried without dissent.

Amendments Are Made to Game Act

Members Discuss the Wicked Gtling and the Gentle Black Bear

FRIDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 2.—Four little black teddy bears toddled over the red carpet of the Legislature, metaphorically speaking, during the afternoon. George Hoadley, house leader for the day owing to the Premier's absence, was sponsoring his amendments to the Game Act, and was engaged in the pleasurable pastime of piloting them through Committee of the whole. There were only two kinds of bears this time, big naughty grizzly ones which strutted around in the territory of Messrs. Stringham, (U.F.A.), Cardston, and Cook, (U.F.A.), Pioneer Creek destroying cattle, sheep and horses without compunction, and nice kindly little black bears which hurt nothing or nobody away up in the frozen wastes of Pembina or wherever it is that George MacLachlan represents.

The Minister proposed to establish a closed season for bears, and the prohibition of bear hunting altogether under certain circumstances. This was too much for George Stringham. "A closed season," he gasps. "What I would have is a bounty on them." He told of much depredation committed in his district. Earl Cook corroborated only more so. Not only sheep in his case, but horses and cattle, Mr. Chairman. They moved to strike out the clauses covering a closed season.

BEARS AS DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Earl Cook thought that the bears in his territory should come under the Domestic Animals Act as they were fully domesticated. But to eat up eight full grown animals besides horses was a performance not to be emulated by other bears as would be sure to happen if there was any protection given them.

That was too bad, thought the member from Pembina. The bears up in his district were not that kind of bears. He had yet to hear of any harm committed by the nice black bears in Pembina. On the other hand there had been instances of sportsmen or rather men who were not sportsmen engaging in wanton destruction of females with their young. Would it not be better to use the powers of the act to apply the territorial exemption of the bill to the areas in the south, and at the same time give the little black bears of the north a chance to escape the wanton destruction of unsportsmanlike sportsmen.

The Minister thought that a good idea. After discussion participated in by Gordon W. Walker (U.F.A.), Claresholm and A. M. Matheson, (U.F.A.), Vegreville, the clause was left as drafted.

Another bright idea, that of making a resident's big game license \$1.00 at the time of issue, and the sum of \$2.50 for every head of big game bagged, went

glimmering when the Minister himself moved that the provision be struck out.

If you go shooting with a Provincial license and having bagged a nice brace of grouse or what not, and should you wish to take same to a restaurant to have it roasted plus nice stuffing and gravy, look out. Or if you should be still more unfortunate in having it cooked within the precincts of a logging or construction camp, beware. You will only be able to do this provided you have seen to it that the restaurant keeper has secured a special permit for so doing. This is to stop, if possible, consumption of grouse or moose meat contraband. In other words, when as many as eight moose carcasses were found in a certain camp the excuse was made that they belonged to licensed workmen, and the same applied to cases where quantities of meat and birds were found in the storages at hotels. In the latter case the excuse for being in possession of the game was that it was the property of the guests who had a game license.

RECIPROCITY BETWEEN PROVINCES

Provision for reciprocity between Provinces is made so that a resident of an adjoining Province may engage in big game hunting in Alberta by paying the fees prescribed by the Province of which he is a resident. This will become effective as soon as other Provinces agree to extend the same privileges to residents of Alberta. In the meantime the fees in the act covering non-residents will remain in force until reciprocal arrangements are agreed upon.

George MacLachlan moved to add the word "shoot" to a clause relating to muskrat, making it read thus—"No one shall shoot or spear muskrat, etc."

A decision was made with regard to the sterilization bill, before reporting it out of the Committee. In Committee the other day the word "unanimous" had been inserted twice in clauses respecting the decision of the Board, thus making it necessary to have a decision wholly unanimous before ordering an operation. Legal advisors to the Minister had pointed out some flaws in the technical construction if that word were employed twice, so the minister moved to have it struck out in one instance. There was no dissent. Another clause had been amended to insert the words "or she" after the word "he" so that it would be clearly evident that it applied to both sexes. The Minister was advised that under the interpretations act the word "he" was interpreted as including both male and female. The additional words were struck out also. This leaves the Sterilization Bill almost in its original state, with only slight alteration.

A lengthy discussion took place on the question of investigating the financial resources of a putative father prior to a charge having been proved. Joseph T. Shaw, Bow Valley, was the chief objector. The bill was finally reported out of Committee.

The first round on the House Rules Amendments took place toward the close of the day. All the non-contentious clauses were disposed of, leaving a free field for the big noise on Monday.

Three private religious bills were read a third time.

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(Continued from page 18)

of special revenues; railways, irrigation and other special expenditures; provision

for sinking fund; and systems of local government.

Day's Task For the Deputies

Daily papers which are forever harping on the comparative lowness of expenditures of other Provinces in comparison with this Province as well as the greatness of revenues should take a day off to study the comparative tables given by the Commission along this line. It would be illuminating.

The recommendations are grouped in the same form as the terms of references quoted previously—A, B, C, D, E, F, G,—which make it easy to comprehend. They are as follows:

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

A. This item has been considered with regard to the two following questions:

(1) Is the Provincial Government collecting taxes for Provincial uses which might be considered as belonging specifically to the municipalities?

(2) Is any one section of the public being treated unfairly with respect to taxation in comparison with another section?

The discussion in the preceding sections will have indicated the general attitude of the Commission with respect to these two questions.

It is recommended:

1. That provision be made for the creation of an appeal board to deal with assessments in lieu of the present arrangements of hearing appeals by district court judges.

2. Under this head there were other suggestions made in the representations to the Commission, but they do not seem of sufficient significance to warrant any action being taken.

Further recommendations covering this item jointly with other items of the commitment will be found under subsequent headings.

3. It is recommended:

1. That the municipal district be constituted the one and only agency for levying and collecting taxes within the district.

2. That the amount to be levied for municipal district purposes be determined by the municipal council according to the statutory requirements of the municipal districts and other acts.

3. (a) That until such time as a county system is adopted, every municipal and improvement district be required to levy a special educational tax upon all assessable property within the municipal or improvement district sufficient to guarantee to each school district a minimum sum to be fixed by statute.

(b) Each school district to estimate the additional amount of levy to be imposed upon the lands within the school district necessary to meet the current requirements, having regard to the income derived from the special levy.

(c) That the amount estimated by each school district shall be levied upon the lands within that school district in addition to the amount raised by the general levy.

(d) That the statutory provision for school grants, and for the special grants for poor districts, be continued.

4. That the Council of each Municipal District shall, in assessing for municipal purposes on the said school districts, add thereto the amounts required for school purposes, and shall collect the same and

pay over in instalments as provided in the Municipal Districts Act.

8. That this be made mandatory by legislation upon Municipal and School Districts.

C.—It is recommended:

1. That the taxation of natural resources should be exclusively for Provincial purposes and based, if possible, on output as far as coal, gas, oil and minerals are concerned.

2. That in the case of the natural resources being returned to the Province that all lands should be classified and sold to bona fide settlers on long term payments.

3. That in the case of productive oil, coal, gas and other mineral areas, the right to tax land and improvements within the municipality, be retained by the municipality, but that the value of all mineral products based on production should be taxed for Provincial purposes exclusively.

4. That in future all mineral titles forfeited for non-payment of taxes be vested in the name of the Crown in the right of the Province, whether such mineral titles are held separately or held with surface rights.

5. That in the case of persons dying intestate, without near relatives, the University be made residual heir, as in the case of ecclesiasts.

D.—It is recommended:

1. That the Supplementary Revenue Tax Act be repealed, and that a Public Revenue Act be passed for the purpose of raising sufficient revenue by a scheme of general taxation to care for Mothers' Allowance, indigent T. B. cases, indigent incurables, transient indigent persons requiring relief, medical attention or hospitalization, and special assistance to education.

The amount payable by each municipality to the Province under the Provincial Revenue Act shall be:

(a) A sum fixed by the minister of Municipal Affairs based upon the equalized assessment of each municipality;

(b) The amount so determined shall be raised under the general system of taxation, in the municipality, and shall be payable in cash to the Province.

2. That the tax to be levied under the proposed Provincial Revenue Act shall be levied on the combined assessed value of land and improvements in both rural and urban municipalities; buildings and improvements to be assessed at two-thirds of their fair actual value.

3. That the Wild Lands tax be continued in its present form.

4. That the Amusement tax be continued in its present form.

5. That the Unearned Increment tax be continued in its present form.

6. That authority be given to municipalities to impose a Poll tax upon all persons in the municipalities not otherwise taxed.

7. That instead of the tax of \$60.00 per elevator, and the capital tax of 40c per \$1,000.00 on authorized capital, the method followed in Minnesota and Wisconsin be adopted in regard to the taxation of Grain Companies, namely, that one-half of a mill per bushel be levied on wheat and flax, and one-quarter of a mill per bushel on all other grains passing through elevators, provided this can be done without materially increasing the handling charges of grain.

8. That the Motor Vehicle License be continued in its present form, but that in the case of trucks used for mercantile purposes a special license fee be imposed.

9. That in view of the enormous cost of construction and maintenance of high-

ways the gasoline tax be raised from 2c to 3c per gallon.

10. That an Income Tax is a legitimate tax for Provincial purposes and is preferable to a Personal Property Tax, and as such a tax is more equitably raised through the Dominion authority, due to the ramifications of modern finance, that the Dominion Government be asked either to make provision for distributing some portion of the tax raised from this source to the Province, or to levy for the Province a special item of Income Tax for Provincial purposes as may be arranged between the two Governments.

11. That the method of taxation of public corporations, so far as municipalities are concerned, be maintained as at present, namely, the assessment of land and improvements within the municipality but that for Provincial purposes the tax should either be upon gross earnings, as is done in the States of the Union, or by an ad valorem assessment.

12. (a) That the Corporations Taxation Act and the Foreign Companies Ordinance be amended to conform with municipal statutes empowering municipalities to license hawkers and peddlers for regulatory purposes only, and that the Provincial Tax upon such persons be increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00.

(b) That, if necessary, Section 22 of The Corporations Taxation Act, and Section 15 of The Foreign Companies Ordinance be amended to empower municipalities to license agents of Companies selling goods direct to the consumer or canvassing for goods to be afterwards delivered to the consumer.

13. That the Restaurant License for Provincial purposes be continued in its present form since a recent judgment of the Privy Council makes it impossible for the Provincial Government to exercise control over the internal management of restaurants, excepting by their power to grant or withhold licenses.

14. That, subject to the terms of existing contracts, in the case of railway properties the right of municipal authorities to assess land and improvements owned by railway companies should be maintained; but that the right of taxation of the road bed should be with the Province only; that in case of roads running through municipalities subject to taxation by municipalities the amount of permitted assessment should be deducted from the amount of the assessment made for Provincial purposes. It is further recommended that the method of taxation should be on either an ad valorem basis or on a percentage of gross earnings in the Province.

15. That where the City roads extend beyond the reasonable requirements for pavements, necessitating gravelled roads to connect with main Government highways, the Government in future assume one-half the cost of constructing such gravelled road.

E. It is recommended:

1. It does not appear expedient to make grants for maintenance of Nursing Schools as it is generally conceded that the presence of Nursing Schools lessens the cost of hospital administration.

2. That if in the opinion of the Government it is unwise to amalgamate the Provincial Police with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police it is suggested, in the interests of economy, that consideration be given to the possibility of adding to the present duties of the Alberta Provincial Police those duties at present undertaken by the Insurance Branch, the Liquor Enforcement Branch, and the

inspection work of the Neglected Children's Department.

3. That each municipal unit be empowered to include in its estimate of current expenditure an annual payment of \$50.00 for each pupil attending a High School either within or without the municipality; this amount to be paid in addition to the \$30.00 already provided to be paid by School Districts or parents. The same to apply to Improvement Districts.

4. That in the case of persons admitted to hospitals claiming residence in a municipality, such municipality shall be made responsible for payment of hospital bills, and the municipal authority shall have the right to collect where possible direct from the patient, or from the person legally responsible for the care of such patient, and that where the municipality can prove that the patient was an indigent and was not a resident of such municipality, the Government to assume the responsibility for that patient and payment be made out of the general fund for that purpose, to be raised under the proposed Public Revenue Act, unless it is determined that the patient is a resident of some other municipal unit.

5. With regard to the representations made concerning the adjustments of seed grain and other relief indebtedness, the Commission is informed that this is already being dealt with by the Government.

6. With regard to the representations made that the Government should cease imposing licenses in the cities leaving the burden of inspection to be borne by the cities, your Commission is of the opinion that, since the municipalities have the right to impose both a property and a business tax, they have no ground for claiming the imposition of additional burdens by the fact that the Provincial Government, in the interest of public safety, sees fit to impose a license fee to cover such responsibilities as they feel called upon to assume.

F. It is recommended:

1. That if the recommendation made under commitment "C", paragraph 2, namely, "that in the case of the natural resources being returned to the Province that all lands should be classified and sold to bona fide settlers on long term payments," that such portion of the income therefrom as will meet the requirements of a sinking fund based on 4 to 1 of 1 per cent, be set aside for the public debt; and if the amount necessary for this purpose should not be forthcoming from this source that a sufficient amount should be taken from the Inheritance Tax to bring the total up to the necessary requirements; and if an income greater than the requirements for sinking fund be available from the sale of lands, that it should be applied for the purpose of strictly capital expenditures.

2. As representations have been made that a county system be established in the Province of Alberta for certain specific purposes, and as there is involved in such a system the reorganization of some of the services of government involving a change of financial responsibility, and as in the question the general future of a highly developed system of schools is involved.

It is recommended:

1. That further study be given to this whole matter, especially from the point of view of its possible usefulness in the administration of certain public services and the better development of the school system of the Province.

Assembly Debates P.R., Edmonton Elections

EDMONTON, Feb. 24.—Days are getting more and more strenuous as they lengthen out toward spring. Hard at it from ten a.m. until ten p.m. makes a good day's work for legislators, besides making it interesting from a spectator's point of view. Today, the Edmonton charter was the occasion of a spirited encounter in the Committee all forenoon, while in the afternoon the Provincial Treasurer introduced his interim budget. A. M. Matheson adjourned the budget debate.

Edmonton city councillors staged a battle royal in the Municipal Law Committee today mainly on the question of the abolition of the principle of proportional representation in civic elections. Both the C.G.A. and Labor were represented to capacity and both views were well stated.

In Edmonton Elections

Alderman Farnillo, Labor, said that proportional representation had been introduced in 1922 by motion of Alderman Colonel Weaver, seconded by Alderman Colson, and backed by labor, three distinct types of political faith being thus represented in co-operation. The matter was carried on debatable, and became law. He outlined the form of agreement between the south side (Strathcona) and the general city that irrespective of how many candidates were nominated two should be elected as strictly south-side representatives. Proportional representation had, he contended, given absolutely fair and equitable results. This had come the time when a motion had been introduced into the council to have the system abolished and this had led to a tie vote of 5-5.

Discussions had gone on until finally it had been decided to put the question to the test of public opinion, but here he claimed an injustice leading to confusion had occurred. The ballot had been worded in such a way as to lead to confusion, and he hinted at this having been done intentionally. The question submitted to the ratepayers had been: "Are you in favour of the abolition of proportional representation?" instead as he contended it should have been—"Are you in favour of the continuance of proportional representation?"

This had resulted in confusion, and he claimed there were many quite intelligent people who had voted yes when they thought they were voting no. Labor was not advocating the continuance of P.R. because it was afraid that it would suffer. He contended that under the old system if the issues were right, Labor could just as easily sweep the boards as they could under P.R. They were opposing abolition because they felt P.R. was a just and equitable system all around. James East, alderman, corroborated, saying that the vote had been engineered to secure a snap verdict, having been mixed in with several by-law votes. The result showed, he said, that the subject matter of the ballot was misunderstood, and was proved by the election at the head of the poll of a supporter of P.R. and the defeat of an ardent opponent.

Mayor Expresses Views

Mayor A. U. G. Bury gave his version of the affair. He, with several others, had been opposed to the adoption of P.R. when it had come in in 1922, but on

CORRECTION

In a number of copies of The U.F.A. of March 1st, which were first off the press, an error occurred on page 34. Readers are requested to refer to their copies and see that this is corrected. Near the bottom of the first column of the page mentioned, under the sub-heading "Annual Production per Farm," the production per farm for 1936 is given as "\$542,000." This should have read "\$542.00."

being outvoted had waived objection and decided to abide by the will of the majority. Now the same procedure had been followed but the result reversed. The procedure was on a parallel with that of 1922. A voice—"a tie vote."

With regard to the objections to the form of ballot, he said the wording was perfectly clear. It was just as easy to understand the word "abolish" as it was to understand the word "maintain." If a person went to the polls with a preconceived idea as to what the wording of a ballot should be that was not the fault of the council or any individual. He denied any sinister motive. The ballot had been put in that form to conform with the motion of the alderman who introduced, as the cause to abolish an existing system was upon those moving for its abolition. The figures were, Spoiled ballots, 143; spoiled ballots for abolition 61; spoiled ballots against 69; spoiled ballots not marked at all 435; doubtful spoiled, 33; Vote for abolition, 6095; against, 5473; majority for abolition, 1222. This was a total vote of over 12,000. In 1922, the vote had been for P.R. 5884; against P.R. 3075; a majority of 2809; a total vote of over 8,000; and with a total spoiled ballots of 1103.

No one could read into the mind of people to determine why they voted as they did. The only thing which counted was the actual vote. He stressed the danger to democracy of the Province refusing to any unit such as a municipality any voting system passed on by vote of the citizens themselves.

Col. Weaver, (Cons.), Edmonton, was a supporter of P.R. in 1922. He was still a believer in the principle. The vote of the people, while he did not like plebiscites, had decided against P.R. and he thought the will of the voters should be paramount. Likewise spoke L.A. Giroux, (Lib.).

The Premier wanted the committee to decide as to whether they would debate the subject in committee or report the bill to the Assembly and let it be debated there. He was anxious to avoid duplication of debate. It was moved to report the bill, but the committee decided to let the question stand until the next meeting of the committee.

Premier Brownlee explained that a town planning act capable of general application through the Province and covering just such points as had been raised that day was contemplated by the Government. However, it had been found that there was a great deal involved requiring mature thought, and the Government had decided to introduce this year a temporary measure, dealing with certain phases of town planning, and next year they would bring in the main act to be known as Part II of the Town Planning Act. Because of this he counselled them to lay the question aside for a year. This was agreed to.

Amendments to the Noxious Weeds Act

And Why the Conservative Proposal Was Rejected

By J. P. WATSON

In view of the widespread interest taken in the question of weeds and their eradication by the armchair farmers who sit on the opposition benches, it is worth while to note the attempt to drive a wedge into the ranks of the farmers by the introduction of a resolution sponsored by representatives of the City of Edmonton. The proposal was adroitly worded, and the argument studiously prepared. But it fell at the hands of the practical husbandman, mainly because the rank and file farmer knows the futility of proceedings of a strictly enforcement character, which, pushed to its conclusion, would ultimately in the abandonment of many farms.

Another chief reason for the rejection of the Conservative resolution was the knowledge that so far as the Government was concerned, much good work had already been achieved in arousing public sentiment to the danger, and an intensive campaign was already under way through the Wheat Pools, the U.F.A., and the banks, in a co-operative way, for the dissemination of information to the men on the land.

The bill introduced by the Minister of Agriculture provides for the appointment of an advisory board consisting of men of experience and in whom the public can place the fullest confidence to confer with and advise the Minister on any matter or thing relating to the administration of the act or the problem of the eradication of weeds. The responsibility will remain in the hands of the Minister, however. Wherever a municipality fails to appoint a weed inspector or for due cause the department will step in and appoint an inspector. The minister may dismiss any municipal inspector; and may appoint inspectors in improvement districts also.

Amendments to Act

Black headed sunflower, all members of the mustard family, and many-flowered prairie sunflower are classified as B weeds. All crops infested with B weeds are subject to destruction at the hands of the inspector, with the qualification, however, that only the portion of the crop which is infested shall be destroyed.

A provision is inserted in the act making it compulsory for any one intending to move settlers' effects, machinery or any other matter or material to any point in the Province to clean same thoroughly and make out a statutory declaration to that effect to be forwarded to the Minister.

The consent of the weed inspector or the field crops commissioner will have to be obtained in writing before any person will be allowed to move off the farm any hay or green feed which contains noxious weed seeds, and the same applies to the bringing of feed into the Province.

SHAVING THE BECKONERS

Curious Pedestrian.—On what floor of this tenement does Mrs. Shannahan live, my little man?

Guide (aged four).—The third right up.—California Police.

Alberta's Expenditures on Roads, Bridges and Ferries

Certified Statement Laid on Table by Hon. G. L. McPherson Shows Expenditures From Income Account \$3,302,540 and Revenue From Gasoline Taxes and Motor Vehicles Act \$3,302,540

By JAS. F. WATSON

Bringing to a conclusive stage the great controversy over expenditures for roads, bridges and ferries for the fateful years of 1924-25-26, the Minister of Public Works has laid on the table of the Legislature the certified statement promised when he spoke on the budget the other day.

Actual expenditure from income account for construction and maintenance was: Roads, \$1,454,674.63; bridges, \$167,383.59; ferries, \$165,839.11; a total of \$1,787,897.33.

Expenditure for interest and sinking fund in respect of past capital expenditures: Roads, \$1,262,817.06; bridges, \$1,197,485.63; ferries, \$44,540.87; a total of \$2,504,843.56.

The total expenditure therefore from income account including INTEREST AND SINKING FUND IN RESPECT OF PAST CAPITAL EXPENDITURES is: Roads, \$2,717,491.69; bridges, \$1,364,841.22; ferries, \$210,379.98; showing a grand total of \$4,292,712.89.

To be generous, the Minister did not wish to include the revenue on income account arising from Dominion Government subventions. The amount of this item was \$310,681.64, which deducted from the total expenditures from income account being the grand total down to an actual cash expenditure of \$3,982,030.45.

Motor Vehicles and Gasoline Tax

The revenue from motor vehicles under the highways act and the revenue from the gasoline taxes was, during the years 1924-25-26 as follows: Licenses under the highways act, \$2,956,321.79; gasoline taxes, \$1,029,347.73; a total of \$3,985,669.52.

The statement makes it quite clear that interest on capital amounts has been calculated at rates furnished by the Treasury Department, representing the cost at which money has been borrowed by the Province during the various years. The statement is also certified correct by the Provincial Auditor, James C. Thompson.

Looking at this a little closer it will be seen that the amount expended on roads, bridges and ferries including interest on commitments as far back as such remained uncanceled, came within \$3,828.33 of using the entire motor and gasoline tax revenue, which is around \$16,000 more than even the original figure mentioned in debate.

The only thing that will be argued now is that current revenues from gas and motor fees should not be expended for interest charges on past borrowings for roads, bridges and ferries. That, of course, is a debatable question, but it seems to me, as Mac says, that if capital borrowings have to be made for roads at any time, past, present or future, it is quite within the bounds of reason and good business to meet the charges out of revenue from year to year.

After all, it boils down to this: Build a road—Pay for a road. If you can pay today—well and good. If you can't pay today,—borrow. If you borrow—pay as

agreed. But pay you must—this year, next year, each year until the uttermost farthing has been met. Whether the money to make these agreed payments from year to year comes out of this income or that income is beside the mark. To earmark any income producing source is not a safe bet. Conditions may change. One service may contract. Another may expand. This may need the appropriation today. That may need it tomorrow. If all incomes from all sources went into general revenue, from which the stream would flow in the direction of whatever service was at the moment most urgent, this would mean a safe elasticity. Road-making is a necessity most pressing today. At the same time there is education. There is public health. There are hosts of lesser things which cannot be neglected because they are small. The wise thing to do in this whirl of demand on the incomes of a harassed Province is to keep the feet warm and the head cool. So that's that.

NEWS FROM WHEAT POOL

(Continued from page 18)

very first one, and all I have heard have been an inspiration, from our "grand old man" down. And I believe as the radio is to the electric world, so is the Wheat Pool to the marketing world. We enjoyed Friday's concert, also Friday the 10th from Miss Scott, of the secretary's staff. Tell friend German from me that all the young farmers around here are getting more interested in some of his staff on the good work they are doing. Tell him he will have to watch out or half his staff may be farming next summer. Congratulations to you and all your helpers in this important work.

This Is Worth Reading

Andrew Holmberg, Viking.—I have made it my business this winter to listen in to as many Wheat Pool broadcasts as I have been able to and I have learned a great deal from it. I have also made it my business at Pool meetings and out of meetings to ask as many radio listeners as I have met to listen in and take advantage of the information sent out to us. Now I would like this same message to go out all over: If our men at the Wheat Pool office in Calgary do not attend to their business to give all the information they can, *out they go*. If the farmers do not make use of every available measure of information about their own affairs, *out the Wheat Pool may go*, and if that happens to us we will all be a sorry bunch of men. Think of that. Yours for success of the Wheat Pool.

Don't Want Wheat

J. W. Auten, Poncha.—Regarding your radio broadcast: I certainly think it is one of the best ways to keep in touch with the members of the Pool, and I have no doubt that there has been many a contract signed just because they hear a lot of facts over the air. I only hope before long the Pool will have its own

station. Regarding your musical program: Don't you think that a good talk such as you give us every Friday evening is much more beneficial than singing or music. Of course, it is very good of any of the staff to entertain us in the country, but as you know, we can tune in on any station between here and the South Pole and hear music and singing but we can't tune in on a good talk on co-operation. It is very interesting to hear what other people on the outside have to say about the Pool. Your short talk tonight was very interesting. You did *fine* for an Irishman!

California Interested

K. W. Cryder, Sacramento, Calif.—Last evening, February 24th, at approximately 8:00 p.m. Pacific time, I heard a program being broadcast over "CFAC" by The Alberta Wheat Pool. Heard Mr. Bishop of the Alberta Wheat Pool Elevator staff sing "Richard of Tonson Dee" and heard your announcer say this was the third number that Mr. Bishop had sung. Then your announcer gave a talk on wheat, that is the benefit that the Alberta Wheat Pool was to the wheat growers. Your station came in very clear and distinct up until a large station in San Francisco came on the air and then there was considerable interference, but even at that your station came in with more volume than many local stations with much more power. If it is not too much trouble would you kindly verify the above reception. Hoping that I will be able to tune in on your programs many times in the future, I am, Yours truly,

Suggests Monday Night

Norman Christie, Statler.—I have listened to quite a number of the Wheat Pool's broadcasts on Friday nights, and although I appreciate the efforts of the Pool in this line, this is the first opportunity I have taken of telling you about it. The effort of the staff to entertain us of late, by way of entertainment, is warmly to be commended. It adds a little spice to the programs to have one or two songs and music, in between the talks on Pool matters. Referring to last Friday night's program: I think Mr. Bishop was fine indeed, especially the first song accompanied by Miss Bishop, the one which he stated was composed from about 50 different songs. It seems we have some real talent among our Wheat Pool staff. You asked for an opinion from the membership as to which night would be best for the Pool broadcast. I agree with the member who wrote saying that Friday night is taken up as a rule with other social events, such as dancing, concerts and the like. Around here, sometimes one, and sometimes two nights a month are taken up that way (that is, Friday nights). If the broadcast commenced at 8 o'clock instead of 8:30 and 8:45, it would suit me fine on Friday night as usual. Monday night would be my next choice, but the University of Alberta is on the air that night at 8:30 I believe. I would like to hear what others think about it. However, it doesn't matter so very much, as I will always make an effort to hear the broadcast. Whatever suits the majority, suits me.

NEW WHEAT POOL LOCAL

A Wheat Pool Local has been organized to be known as the "Spedden Wheat Pool Local" with Stanley Crosswell of Spedden as secretary.